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DAY LEAD CIA

WASHINGTON, APRIL 12 (UPI)--RETIRED VICE ADM. WILLIAM F. RABORN JR., A NAVY MISSILEMAN KNOWN AS THE "FATHER OF THE POLARIS," IS THE NATION'S NEW MASTER SPY, SUCCEEDING JOHN A. MCCONE AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA).

PRESIDENT JOHNSON ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF THE 60-YEAR-OLD RABORN YESTERDAY AT HIS TEXAS RANCH. AT THE SAME TIME, HE NAMED RICHARD MCGARRAH HELMS, NOW CIA DIRECTOR OF PLANS, AS THE AGENCY'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND THUS NO. 2 MAN TO RABORN.

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN THE APPOINTMENTS WOULD TAKE EFFECT OR WHEN HE WOULD SEND RABORN'S NOMINATION TO THE SENATE FOR CONFIRMATION. "I ASSUME IT WILL BE AT AN EARLY DATE," HE SAID.

IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT MCCONE, A 63-YEAR-OLD CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIALIST, WAS ANXIOUS TO RETIRE FROM THE CIA POST. MCCONE, A REPUBLICAN, WAS APPOINTED BY THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY TO SUCCEED ALLEN W. DULLES AS CIA CHIEF. PRIOR TO THAT, HE SERVED DURING THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (AEC).

RABORN, A NATIVE OF DECATUR, TEX., AND A 1928 GRADUATE OF THE U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY, IS NOW VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF AEROJET GENERAL CORP. AT PASADENA, CALIF. HE RETIRED FROM THE NAVY ABOUT 18 MONTHS AGO.

HE WAS A NAVAL AVIATOR DURING WORLD WAR II AND WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR IN APRIL, 1945, FOR "CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY" AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE U. S. S. HANCOCK.

IT WAS WHILE HE HEADED THE FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE WEAPONS SYSTEMS PROGRAM FROM 1955 TO 1962 THAT HE HELPED DEVELOP THE POLARIS MISSILE, EARNING THE NAVY'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL FOR HIS WORK. AT THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT HE WAS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH ON THE STAFF OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.

HELMS, 52, A NATIVE OF ST. DAVIDS, PA., ATTENDED SCHOOLS IN GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND BEFORE MATRICULATING AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE IN MASSACHUSETTS. UPON HIS GRADUATION FROM WILLIAMS, HE WORKED AS A CORRESPONDENT FOR UNITED PRESS (NOW UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL) FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE BEING NAMED NATIONAL ADVERTISING MANAGER OF THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES IN 1937.

DURING WORLD WAR II HE SERVED WITH THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (OSS), THE FORERUNNER OF THE CIA. HE JOINED THE CIA IN LATE 1946. AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS, HE DIRECTED THE AGENCY'S COVERT OPERATIONS. HE SUCCEEDED RICHARD BISSELL IN THAT POST AFTER THE ILL-FATED BAY OF PIGS INVASION. AS SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE AGENCY, HE SUCCEEDS LT. GEN. MARSHALL CARTER WHO RETURNS TO THE PENTAGON FOR REASSIGNMENT.

JOHNSON'S APPOINTMENT OF A MILITARY MAN TO SUCCEED MCCONE IS NOT UNUSUAL. WHILE IT HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE OF THE LAST TWO ADMINISTRATIONS TO NAME CIVILIAN CIA CHIEFS, THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY WAS REAR ADM. ROSCOE H. HILLENKOETTER. HE WAS SUCCEEDED IN 1950 BY ARMY GEN. WALTER BEDELL SMITH, WHO SERVED UNTIL FEB. 26, 1953, WHEN DULLES WAS NAMED.